GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2506
ANSWERED ON:17.03.2008
FOOD PARKS
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether various Government agencies have formed a special purpose vehicle to set up agri-services food parks in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the time frame for its implementation; and

(c) the extent to which such food parks will help to check the prices of agricultural produce?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE(SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA)

(a) to (c): Ministry of Food Processing Industries(MFPI) had been providing financial assistance in the form of grant-in-aid for setting up of Food Parks under its Plan scheme@ 25% of project cost in general areas and 33.33% of project cost in difficult areas, subject to maximum of Rs. 4.00 crore for creation of common facilities such as power supply, water supply, cold storage, warehousing facility, effluent treatment plant,food testing analytical laboratory,common processing facility etc. The Ministry does not set up Food Parks on its own. The Ministry has approved financial assistance in respect of 56 Food Parks in the country (List annexed).

MFPI has submitted a scheme to Planning Commission, which envisages providing financial assistance for setting up of mega Food Parks in the country during 11th Five Year Plan period.The scheme, which is project oriented, aims to provide a mechanism to bring together farmers, processors and retailers and link agricultural production to the market so as to ensure maximization of value addition, minimization of wastages and improving farmers` income. Mega Food Park envisages a well-defined agri/horticultural-processing zone containing state of the art processing facilities with support infrastructure and well established supply chain.The scheme envisages formation of Special Purpose Vehicles (SPVs) by the Stakeholders/Users for implementation, operation and maintenance of Mega Food Parks. The primary objective of the scheme is to facilitate establishment of an integrated value chain, with processing at the core and supported by requisite forward and backward linkages.